

SPARK

Congestoga College, Kitchener

JULY 4, 2000

What's Inside



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Raising money for Walkerton

Memorial award remembers former graduate, OPP officer

Award recognizes outstanding student in the police foundations program

By Tracy Ford

A new award was presented during the June 2 afternoon convocation ceremony in memory of OPP Sgt. Margaret Eve, a Conestoga College graduate who died June 9 after an accident on Highway 401.

The Sgt. Margaret Eve Memorial Award was established to recognize an outstanding student in the police foundations program at Conestoga College.

The award was presented to Renee Harnack, a police foundations graduate, by Brian Adkin, president of the OPP Association.

The award is given to the top academic female student in the program who has shown leadership abilities and possesses a team player attitude. The graduate must also be interested in a career with the police force.

Eve, the first female officer to die in the line of duty in Ontario, graduated from the college's criminology and law enforcement program in 1982 before joining the Ontario Provincial Police.

Jim Drennan, a representative from the OPP who facilitated the award, said he would describe the winning candidate as someone who demonstrates an excellent combination of interpersonal skills, team work, critical thinking, as well as a genuine humanist disposition.

Drennan, a former teacher in the

law and security administration program at Conestoga College, said these characteristics were possessed by Eve.

"Her family saw it as an excellent way to remember her," Drennan said. He also said the family hopes to be able to give the award to the winner during convocation next year.

The award of \$500 was established by the Ontario Provincial Police Association to commemorate Eve's life and service with the OPP.

Drennan said the faculty of the police foundations course chooses the recipient.

Don Douglas, program co-ordinator of the police foundations and law and security programs, said, "It's sad that it has to be presented in this particular way, but it's an honour that they are (the OPP) recognizing a student of ours."

Three OPP officers including Eve, 38, and three civilians were injured after a tractor-trailer crashed into the back of a group of three police cruisers along a stretch of Highway 401 west of London known as Carnage Alley. Eve died from injuries two days after the crash.

"The young lady (Eve) was a very dynamic and good academic student," said Douglas.

Douglas, who taught Eve during her years in the program, said he remembers her as a very tall, very



Award winner Renee Harnack stands with president of the OPP Association Brian Adkin after being presented with the Sgt. Marg Eve Memorial Award.

(Photo by Sherri Osment)

bright and gregarious. He said she was a very positive and good student.

"Certainly she has been a credit to this program," Douglas said. "She is a credit to the field that she chose. She's been very well received and appreciated by her

fellow officers."

"The fact that the OPP wants to recognize her contribution to policing and to recognize her as a graduate of ours speaks very highly of her," he said, adding the recognition was also great for Conestoga College.

Former CBC president speaks at convocation

Tells graduates that 'a knowledgeable workforce is essential'

By Julie Porter

You are truly educated when you can listen to just about anything without losing your temper or your sense of self, Perrin Beatty, former CBC president, told Conestoga College graduates June 21.

Beatty, quoting poet Robert Frost, emphasized the importance of education at the college's June 21 evening convocation ceremony for graduates of the college's training and development division and school of business.

"It's nice to be able to escape from Ottawa and get back to civilization," said the Fergus native, who is well known locally and nationally. He was a member of the

House of Commons and on the national defence committee. He served as the president of the CBC before taking the position he now holds as president and CEO of the Alliance of Manufacturers and Exporters Canada.

He began his speech by stressing the importance of Canadians being able to compete effectively in the global economy and said that as Canadians we have a great responsibility to educate our graduates well.

"A knowledgeable workforce is essential," he said.

Beatty said that the status quo is not the way of the future, and that graduates must strive to be their best in order to be successful.

Beatty said that Canada's economy is in transition, comparing the current economic changes to those of the industrial revolution.

"You are taking with you skills that are greatly important to Canada's fast-paced world," said Beatty. "The strongest are the ones who can best adapt to change."

Beatty told the graduates that the work being done at the college was well known by those he worked with.

Conestoga president John Tibbits welcomed him to the convocation ceremony, calling him a man of insight, knowledge and experience.

The alumni of distinction award presented at the June 21 evening ceremony went to Anne MacKay, a

1987 graduate of the business development program.

MacKay has served on many non-profit organizations and currently works as the director of development for the United Way.

She told the grads she wanted to give some life pointers.

"In terms of career, look at the not-for-profit sector," MacKay suggested.

She added that there are many ways to use the skills learned at the college in order to become more involved in the community.

"Also, please consider volunteering," said MacKay. "Volunteering allows you to shift from living in your community, to participating in it."

Doon campus plans to include new wing

By Laura Czekaj

Conestoga College is on the verge of a makeover, with the addition of a new wing, a police and fire training centre and a partnership with the City of Kitchener that will move the food and beverage program to the Doon Valley Golf and Country Club.

John Tibbits, president of the college, said that although all of the changes are still being discussed by the groups involved, they will mark a big step forward for the college.

Plans to build a new wing leading off in the direction of the college's recreation centre at the Doon campus are the result of a recent infusion of provincial government funding through the SuperBuild Growth Fund.

The college was awarded \$14.22 million, \$25 million less than what was asked for in the college's proposal, and will be asking for additional funding from the province to

make up the original \$39 million requested.

Tibbits said that although plans to build a new campus in Waterloo to house information technology and health science programs depends on whether the college can acquire additional funding, the project is still a possibility for future expansion.

"It's not dead yet," Tibbits said.

The building of a new wing at the Doon campus is the alternative to a new Waterloo campus and construction may start as early as 2002.

Tibbits said the plan is to add 9,000 square metres branching off the graphic design wing and leading toward the recreation centre. He said this is the best method for the college to re-organize the maze of corridors that is currently the D wing. Also, it would provide students with a closer route to and from the recreation centre.

Although the best place for the

new wing would be beside the graphics wing, where the wing will be constructed still depends on soil testing that will be done over the summer, said Tibbits, because the land was once a marsh-like area that still has a high water table. Tibbits said the college doesn't want to waste money on removing bog soil, and if need be, will build the wing off the business area instead.

"We want as much space as we can get," he said. "We want to get the maximum for our dollar."

The second change for the college is the possibility of a police and fire training centre in conjunction with the Waterloo Regional Police and Waterloo Region.

The centre would replace the Ontario Police College in Aylmer as the premiere training centre in southwestern Ontario.

Tibbits said discussion about the centre is still going on, but if the plan is approved a new building will be constructed on 22 acres of land owned by the college located on the north side of Conestoga College Boulevard across the street from the Doon campus.

Tibbits said the college's location is perfect for the training centre because it is located right off Highway 401. Construction could start in the spring of 2002.

The third part of the college's expansion plan is to move the food and beverage program from the Waterloo campus to the Doon Valley Golf and Country Club just east of the Doon campus.

Tibbits said the city-owned golf club will expand in the near future, including additional holes and a new clubhouse.



President of Conestoga College, John Tibbits, says there will be many changes to expand the college in the future.

(Photo by Laura Czekaj)



The new wing may be built off the graphic design wing, pending soil-testing results. The alternate site for the wing is off the business area.

(Photo by Laura Czekaj)

Moving the program to the golf club will benefit the college, the city and students, he said.

The college will receive free space at the golf club to locate the kitchen equipment required for the two-year program. Moving the space-intensive program out of the Waterloo campus will free 720 square metres of space for computer training, which Tibbits said was the original intention of the campus.

The city will receive free kitchen equipment and a ready supply of staff.

Students will benefit because

they will be in walking distance of the Doon campus and its facilities, like the recreation centre, Tibbits said, and students will have access to co-op placements at the golf club.

Tibbits said the structure of the golf club is perfect for the program because during the winter months when there is no golfing students can do their training and in the warmer weather, when business at the club picks up, students will be going on co-op.

Final approval of the move is expected by Kitchener city council within the next month.

Legislative rights for student government not included in recommendations from provincial college association

By Ray Bowe

The Ontario Community College Student Parliamentary Association has hit a snag in its fight to attain legislative rights for student governments.

The Association of Colleges of Applied Arts and Technology of Ontario (ACAATO) has released its recommendations, but changing current legislation regarding student councils was not included.

ACAATO is the advocacy and marketing organization that represents Ontario's 25 colleges and its mandate is to make Ontario's college system stronger.

The recommendations in the report were largely internal, including modifications to the board's role in the 21st century, such as an increase in board authority, flexibility and credibility.

That report, however, is not the final say for the prospective changes, said Tracy Boyer, executive director of OCCSPA.

The Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities makes the final decision.

ACAATO sent a letter to OCC-

SPA in June 1999 outlining what its report was to focus on. When OCCSPA noticed there was no reference to giving any legislative rights to student councils, the student group sent a follow-up letter to ACAATO asking why such changes were not included.

Boyer said ACAATO responded by saying it believes it is not its jurisdiction to communicate such changes to the provincial government.

Other ACAATO recommendations included recognizing colleges as both economic and social forces of development in Ontario, greater accessibility and improved funding stability, changing current legislation to allow colleges to be market-driven and accountable, and increasing the authority of a college's board of governors.

The rights of student councils have consistently been vague, and a feedback paper posted at the OCCSPA Web site in September 1999 addresses a need to clarify issues surrounding student governments.

The paper brings up the need to properly define student govern-

ments and their involvement in affairs such as long-term planning at their respective colleges and relations with its college boards of governors. There were a total of 18 points that deserve clarification, according to the paper.

Student governments in both Alberta and Manitoba already have

"The time for change is now."

*Mike Harris,
vice-president
southwestern region
OCCSPA*

legislative rights.

In Alberta, student governments have entrenched rights that state they are to administer to the affairs of students at the college, the enforcement of a system of student law and the promotion of the general welfare of its students.

Student councils are permitted to pass bylaws regarding the requirements of student association memberships, the number of delegates to sit on the student council, the scheduling of meetings and the

management of council property.

The government in Ontario plays a large role in important processes like the key performance indicators, student satisfaction surveys and negotiations, according to Boyer. Student councils also collect ancillary fees, those over and above tuition fees.

Boyer said that this fee collection makes student councils an accountable mechanism within the college. She added that college student councils may be the only objective voice on a college campus. Therefore, there is no question as to their role.

"The time for change is now," said Mike Harris, vice-president of the southwestern region OCCSPA, in a press release.

"Our students seek a legislated right to exist (and) to ensure accountability to students and the public," said Harris, who is also vice-president of academics for Conestoga Students Inc., formerly the Doon Student Association.

Student governments provide an array of services ranging from the organizing of clubs and events to being advocates for students' rights.

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Focus for change opens doors

Winner of Marjorie Komer award credits 12-week program for success

By Julie Porter

Carol Carvalho thought she was too old to go back to school.

Unemployed, and suddenly in the bewildering and frightening position of being a single-mom after years of marriage, Carvalho said she wasn't sure she had many options.

"There were days when I didn't have a dime for coffee and no car, but I knew I wanted to work," said Carvalho, "I just needed guidance."

When she walked into the information session of Conestoga's focus for change program, the world suddenly began to open up for her.

Carvalho, who was this year's recipient of the Marjorie Komer award which was presented at the Waterloo campus June 23, is now employed and on June 22 donned a black robe and joined other graduates of the health office administration program to receive her college diploma.

To win the Marjorie Komer award, a student must complete the focus for change program, academic upgrading and one year of post-secondary education, as well as remain involved in focus for change.

Focus for change is a 12-week program for women in receipt of Ontario works — the provincial government's new controversial work-for-welfare initiative. Set up in partnership with local social services, it helps women raising children by themselves prepare for school and work.

According to Debbie Cox, the co-ordinator of focus for change, the program helps women address their goals and supports them in reaching them.

"Focus for change is a personal growth program," said Cox. "It helps women rediscover their skills, re-evaluate their strengths and helps clarify their next step."

For Carvalho, focus for change allowed her to gain the confidence in herself that tragedy had worn down.

"I found myself in a place I thought I couldn't get out of. Focus for change was

my gateway to college, to the workplace which had its own lingo I didn't understand," said Carvalho.

Carvalho said that she used an advertisement for Ford Focus cars as inspiration.

"I tore out an ad that had the word focus on it and stuck it on my fridge. The word focus kept me going because I knew what it was exactly that I needed to do," said Carvalho.

The Marjorie Komer award, which honours women who have found success through focus for change, was named for a woman who worked feverishly to improve the lives of women.

Diane Murphy, a focus for change teacher, said she thought of Carvalho instantly when she was asked for her input on who would be a good candidate.

"Carol was up against many hurdles and she overcame them one after another," said Murphy. "She jumped in with both feet and was a

"There were days when I didn't have a dime for a coffee and no car, but I knew I wanted to work."

*Carol Carvalho,
graduate of
focus for change*

wonderful support for the other women.

"I admire the fact that she sets a goal and doesn't ever give up. It's truly inspirational."

Murphy said that she felt that focus for change and the Marjorie



Deborah Witby (left) gives the Marjorie Komer award to this year's recipient, Carol Carvalho, at a banquet held on June 23.

(Photo by Julie Porter)

Komer award are both very important.

"The need is there for women. Women are caregivers and often spend all their energy looking after the needs of other people. This course gives them a chance to look after themselves."

Komer was a teacher of applied arts and business at Conestoga College for 14 years. She taught at both the introduction to non-traditional programs for women, and for focus for change until her death at age 61.

She was a mother of nine children who decided in her early 40s that she wanted to go to university.

Her children, who attend the Marjorie Komer award ceremony every year, say she was an activist all her life.

"My dad called her a women's lib-

ber," said Deborah Whitby, one of Komer's four daughters. "I think she saw in her own life that a woman was as capable as a man."

Whitby describes the Marjorie Komer award as something her mother would have wanted to give.

"It's what she believes in," said Whitby. "The focus for change course is there to prove that life doesn't have to stay the same. It says that you aren't powerless."

Carvalho said she was greatly honoured to receive an award named after Komer.

"I'm grateful for Marjorie Komer because she must have known that some women wanted to reach their goals, but didn't think they could," said Carvalho.



Debbie Cox, program co-ordinator for focus for change, holds the Marjorie Komer award plaque.

(Photo by Julie Porter)

College representative going to international education congress

By Sherri Osment

A representative from Conestoga College is going to the International Special Education Congress at England's University of Manchester.

Barry Cull, learning specialist in the special needs office, will speak at the congress about Conestoga's learning opportunities project.

The learning opportunities project is a four-year pilot project that was started as a way to help students with specific learning disabilities make the transition from high school to post-secondary education.

As a learning specialist, Cull works directly with students to assess learning disabilities and help students understand what their disabilities are and how to overcome them.

Cull said this is the first time a representative from Conestoga will be speaking at the congress, which runs July 24 to 28. Cull said 34 countries will be represented.

The five themes that will be dis-

cussed at the congress are how rights to education are transferred into policy, listening to what different stakeholders in education are saying about including all people in education, the changing roles of teachers, developing practices for inclusion and the positive outcomes of inclusion of people with disabilities in education.

"I think we have some success here."

*Barry Cull,
learning specialist, special
needs office*

Cull will be speaking on the developing practice theme about how the learning opportunities project has contributed to inclusion of people with learning disabilities into post-secondary education. Cull said the project fits well with the theme of the congress because people with disabilities have typically had a difficult time obtaining post-secondary education.

Cull said he hopes to come back from the congress with some idea of what changes are required for teachers so that they can accommodate and assist students with disabilities.

"I want to go tell the world about

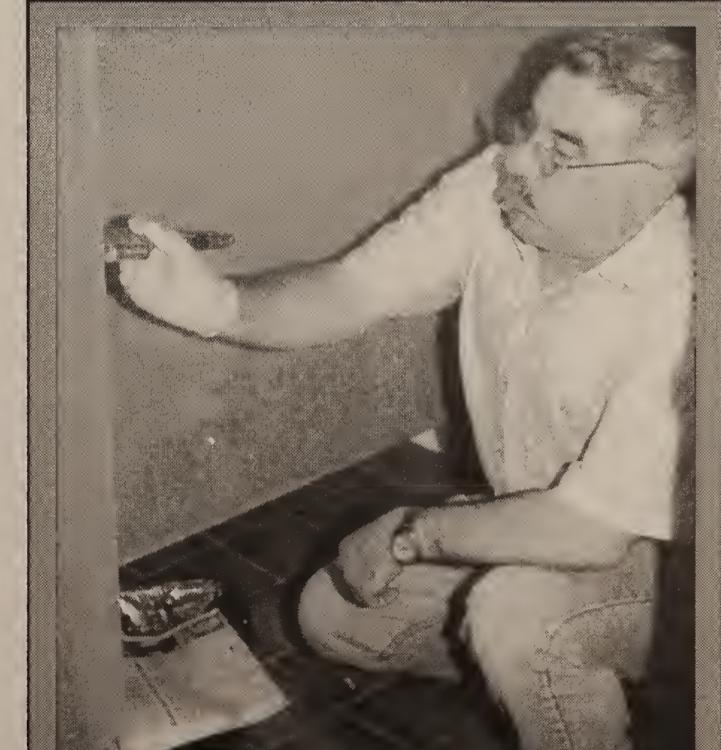
that (the learning opportunities project), because I think we have some successes here that have some real impact on the whole issue of inclusion," said Cull. "One of them is our willingness to consider admissions accommodations."

Cull said accommodations don't mean waiving admission requirements or modifying them, but adapting the methods to work around a disability.

"For example, if they have to write an admissions test, having somebody read them the questions. It's not changing the question in any way, it's not changing the answer they have to give in any way," Cull said. "It's just changing whether or not that student has to actually read the question if they have a reading disability which would exclude them."

Cull said he hopes to come back from the congress with some idea of what changes are required for teachers so that they can accommodate and assist students with disabilities.

Fresh start



Ibrahim El-Srovji, from physical resources, applies a fresh coat of blue paint to the women's bathroom on the second floor on June 7.

(Photo by Petra Lampert)

Peace bonds do not maintain victim's safety

On May 21, people in a quiet Pickering neighbourhood witnessed an atrocity.

From their windows, they saw a woman named Gillian Hadley running for her life. She was naked. Clutched in her arms was her 11-month-old son, Christopher. Behind her was her estranged husband, Ralph Alexander Hadley. Clutched in his hand was a gun.

Despite the warnings, Hadley was consistently able to go free. The rationale — Hadley had no criminal record.

Neighbors came outside to help but were put off by the gun in Ralph Hadley's hand. One of them reached out as she passed Christopher to safety before being dragged into her home and shot.

She must have known what was coming.

Others must have seen it coming too; it certainly wasn't out of the blue. In fact, in the last six months, Ralph Hadley, a 34-year-old postal worker, had at least three encounters with the police, all involving violence or threats directed at his wife or at her severely handicapped seven-year-old son Michael.

In December, Gillian Hadley complained to police that Ralph Hadley had assaulted Michael, whose handicap confined him to a wheelchair. Durham police investigated but reported that "those charges basically did not proceed." Michael was sent to live with his biological father, and Hadley was placed on a peace bond.

On Jan. 7, Hadley was charged with assaulting his wife and breaching his recognizance. Again there was no court appearance and he was released on "officer-in-charge undertaking."

On Feb. 22, Hadley was charged with criminally harassing his estranged wife and breaching the conditions of his peace bond. He was fined \$5,000.

Despite the warnings, Hadley was consistently able to go free. The rationale — Hadley had no criminal record.

When Gillian Hadley started dating a new man, Ralph Hadley snapped, and no peace bond or \$5,000 fine could stop him.

In what was described by Toronto Star columnist Jim Coyle as more like an execution than a crime of passion, Gillian Hadley's life ended.

Premier Mike Harris responded to the disaster by saying, "The area of restraining order didn't work in this case. It may very well be something that government has to take a look at, if there is more to we can do there."

Gillian Hadley's death is not an anomaly.

According to the Toronto Star, of the 555 homicides in metro Toronto in 1998, some 57 of them were women killed at the hands of their partners or husbands.

The study found that peace bonds and restraining orders issued in Canada are ineffective. Most of the bonds were issued to protect women from abusive partners.

"Try saying hijack out loud in an airport and see how quickly you are dealt with. Yet a man evidently can make repeated threats to an estranged wife and have nothing thrown back at him but a piece of paper," wrote Coyle in a column surrounding the Hadley tragedy.

Eighteenth century British law authorized a husband to chastise his wife with a rod no thicker than his thumb. Canada's law, in the year 2000, allows men to beat and threaten their wives with only the threat of a paper as punishment. Have we really come very far?



Mistakes must be fixed



Donna Ryves

This is not another E. coli opinion piece looking to point the finger or place blame, because it isn't fair to judge.

The focus should be directed at correcting the problem.

It is moving to pick up the newspaper and see something good on the front page, such as The Record's June 21 edition. The story, entitled Walkerton Students Thank High School for Generosity, is about students who attend St. Mary's high school in Kitchener and their efforts in raising money for the Walkerton relief fund sponsored by the United Way.

The local school raised \$6,000 for those infected with the bacteria, which contaminated the drinking water that killed at least seven and

perhaps as many as 19 people. It is the purest form of love to care about something so much and actually do something about it. It's not just talking about it but showing care, because the families of those who died need support in their time of mourning.

"I can't say enough, people our own age caring this much. It's just great," said 18-year-old Matt Weber, who was sickened by E. coli, in the article carried by the Record.

What they don't need is government and other agencies passing the buck and worrying about financial bottom lines.

The nature of E. coli, if it doesn't kill you, that is, is to leave you totally drained, where you can't do anything. Many of the people who were infected thought they either had the flu or food poisoning. And there isn't much that can be done if you're infected with E. coli.

"I'm the type of person who

always has to be doing something, but you just can't, you just lie there," said Weber.

Other donations include about \$66,872 from the United Way of Kitchener-Waterloo and the United Way of Bruce-Grey, with an additional \$13,000 from the Bruce nuclear workers. A donation of \$10,000 came from the Co-operator's in Guelph and \$1,022 was donated by Waterloo Region employees. The Waterloo Region Friends of the Blind contributed \$1,000 and St. Joseph Catholic School in Fergus gave \$500.

Solving this problem may be easier if people show more compassion and understanding.

In fact, an Internet site intended to prevent fraud and inform consumers about food recalls was set up on June 22 by Industry Minister John Manley. Focus should be placed on making things better and being as productive and humanly as possible. Accidents happen.

SPOKE

Keeping Conestoga College connected

SPOKE is published and produced weekly by the journalism students of Conestoga College.

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Parking preparation



Security supervisor Clifford Laurin gets ready for the fall semester by sorting through and preparing student parking applications.

(Photo by Sherri Osment)

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Food bank empty

Donations lower during summer months

By Julie Porter

Although things may have seemed to slow down for the summer and there are few students roaming the halls of Conestoga College, the food bank still needs donations.

According to Alycia Punnett, executive assistant for Conestoga Students Inc., formerly the Doon Student Association, the food bank is completely empty, and despite demand being down, there is still a need to re-stock the supply for the summer months.

"I know the food bank is needed," said Punnett. "I know there are students who won't get through the school year without it."

Punnett said the CSI has sent out a request to faculty and staff to help re-stock the empty shelves.

Non-perishables like canned pasta, pasta sauces, peanut butter, rice, canned fruit and vegetables, baby food, tuna, juice, cereal and soup are being requested.

Punnett said Conestoga's food bank gets a fair amount of use during the fall and winter semesters and that most often students go to student services if they need food.

"We get most of our donations

when the Waterloo Regional Food Bank gets theirs. Christmas and Thanksgiving are the peak times," said Punnett.

Students are also able to obtain food vouchers in \$5 and \$10 denominations for perishables, but there are limitations to the number of vouchers that can be distributed.

Joan Magazine, a counsellor at student services, said students often come to the student services office when they need help getting food. Sometimes, according to Magazine, students approach a counsellor and express concerns about being able to afford food. Sometimes the students are unaware that there is a food bank available to them at Conestoga.

Both Punnett and Magazine said that dealing with counsellors seems to give students a greater sense of anonymity and comfort than requesting food from their peers at the CSI office.

According to Magazine, the increase in the daily cost of living for students contributes to the need for the food bank.

"Fewer resources, increases in tuition costs, transportation fees, increased gas prices all put a strain on a budget," said Magazine. "I

think all the rises in cost for everything affects student finances."

The Food Bank of Waterloo Region is another option for students who find themselves without food.

Fred Lehman, community relations manager, said in 1999 the food bank re-distributed about 1.3 million kilograms of food.

According to Lehman, 70 per cent of food available at the food bank comes by way of corporate donations. Local businesses like J.M Schneider Inc. and Dare Foods Ltd. donate food that is near its expiration date, damaged during freight or mislabeled. The remaining 30 per cent is privately donated — the bulk of which arrives in the spring and Thanksgiving drives.

The 2000 spring food drive brought in about 50,400 kilograms of food — which according to Lehman, will last until the next drive.

Lehman said that summer is a busy time for food banks.

"The need doesn't diminish but the amount of donations do. People go away, up to their cottages, on vacations. People simply don't donate as much," said Lehman.



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Topnotch grads

Awards recognize work, academics and community service

By Jes Brown

The 32nd convocation ceremonies of Conestoga College were highlighted by the presentation of three major college-wide awards.

President John Tibbits presented the Mastercraft Award to Kristina Pacey at the 4 p.m. ceremony on June 21, the Governor General's Academic Medal to Valentina Balan at the 7:30 p.m. ceremony on the same day and the James W.

Church Award to Brenda Robinson-Lowe at the 7 p.m. ceremony on June 22.

Tibbits said the convocation was very positive. "I think it's a time for celebration and recognition of achievement."

Tibbits said convocation is a time for recognition for everyone, but announcing every award there would add several hours to the ceremony, so only the most prestigious are presented at the ceremony.

"They are certainly people who deserve the recognition," Tibbits said.

The Mastercraft Award was established by former college president Kenneth E. Hunter for excellence in program-related technical skills as displayed in a single project and includes a \$500 award.

Waterloo resident Kristina Pacey's woodworking project required more than 300 hours from design to complete construction.

She does not graduate from the woodworking technology program until the end of this summer, but was invited to receive the Mastercraft Award at this year's ceremony.

Her project was a Pennsylvania spice box, a free-standing cabinet commonly used in rural southeast Pennsylvania.

The project involved design and costing, handwork, machine work and the use of computer aided design and manufacturing.

The winner of the Governor General's Academic Medal, Valentine Balan, graduated from the business administration — accounting program.

The Governor General's Academic Medal goes to a student graduating from a diploma-level program with the highest academic average in the college during their final year of study.

The award is a bronze medallion. Balan, a Kitchener native, compiled an academic average of 91.7 per cent over the three years she attended the college.

The average for her final year, which is what the award is based on, was 93.8 per cent.

Balan received a grade of 100 in the accounting policies and processes course.

Named in honour of Conestoga's

first president, the James W. Church award is a \$1,000 award which goes to the graduating student who combines the elements of community service with academic excellence and demonstrates a concern for the well being of the individual in society.

This year's winner, nursing graduate Brenda Robinson-Lowe, currently lives in Kingston, Jamaica and works at University Hospital and provides volunteer nursing services and health care education at a church-run clinic in Kingston.

Robinson-Lowe won several academic awards and attained honour roll status at Conestoga. She was also a peer tutor and a student representative with the Waterloo chapter of the Registered Nurses Association of Ontario.

She participated in developing a palliative care assessment tool — a document placed in the homes of palliative care patients to promote the individual's comfort and ensure continuity and consistency of care, according to a college press release.

The press release explained that Robinson-Lowe, through an organization called Jamaica Self Help, was a forerunner in developing a camp for indigent teenagers. Through the assistance of the Peace Corps, what she began back in 1997 still exists.



The gymnasium at Conestoga College's Kenneth E. Hunter recreation centre was transformed on June 21 and 22 to accommodate 2,600 graduates and their guests at the 32nd annual convocation ceremony.

(Photo by Julie Porter)

Convocation at a glance

- about 2,600 students graduated during this year's three ceremonies
- OPP established police foundations award honouring Margaret Eve
- Renee Harnack was the first recipient of the Margaret Eve Award
- The Alumni of Distinction Award winners were Anne MacKay and James Witmer
- The Governor General's Academic Medal was awarded to Valentina Balan
- The James W. Church Award was given to Brenda Robinson-Lowe
- The Mastercraft Award was given to Kristina Pacey

Jobs won't always be plentiful, CEO warns

By Sherri Osment

"You have a magnificent opportunity," John Bell, president and CEO of Polymer Technologies, told graduates during the June 21 afternoon convocation ceremonies. "Don't let it go to waste."

Bell spoke to Conestoga graduates about the importance of making themselves invaluable to employers and advised them never to stop learning. He said even with today's economic stability the future is still uncertain and told the graduates it is important to do more than just show up to work.

"I don't pay my employees to work," Bell said. "I pay them to achieve objectives, make contributions and to accomplish goals."

Bell said although Canada is currently experiencing an economic boom, it will not last forever, and he cautioned that another recession, when jobs will not be so plentiful, is inevitable.

The graduates were advised by another speaker to remember their legacy. "The inspiration of a great teacher will go with you forever," alumni of distinction award winner James Witmer told the graduates before accepting his award from Conestoga College president John Tibbits.

The afternoon convocation was

held for graduates of the school of college access and preparatory studies postgraduate and diploma programs, the school of applied arts certificate and diploma programs, the school of trades and apprenticeship trades and apprenticeship programs and the school of engineering technology certificate, diploma and postgraduate programs.

There were just over 1,000 graduates from these programs, although not all attended the convocation.

The ceremony began with the procession of the graduates into the gym at the Doon campus recreation centre, followed by the singing of O Canada.

After the speeches by Bell, Witmer, Tibbits and another alumni of distinction award winner, Anne MacKay, the graduates all ascended the stage to receive their diplomas and a liripipe, a band of red velvet edged and divided into four sections with

gold trim, which is laid over the graduate's shoulder. The liripipe is a symbol of recognition of an individual's preparation to play a role in the working world.

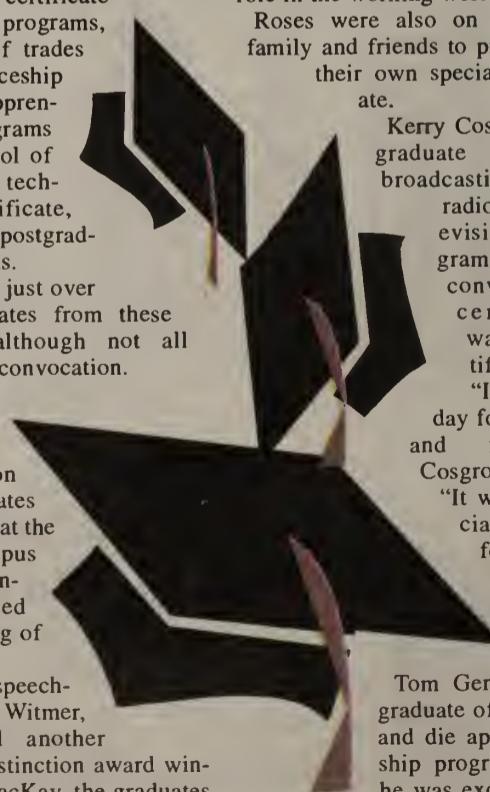
Roses were also on sale for family and friends to present to their own special graduate.

Kerry Cosgrove, a graduate of the broadcasting — radio and television program, said the convocation ceremony was beautiful.

"It's a nice day for family and friends," Cosgrove said. "It was especially nice for my mom."

Tom Gerth, a graduate of the tool and die apprenticeship program, said he was excited and a little nervous before the ceremony.

"It's a relief," Gerth said. "The last three years have been tough."



News

College's first mould-making class graduates

Three-year program taught at Guelph campus gives more opportunities

By Petra Lampert

Eleven students — including one woman — graduated June 13 from the college's first class of mould makers.

The group started the program in September 1998 and has been attending classes one day a week while working four days as apprentices in the industry. The three-year program is taught only at the Guelph campus and is geared towards apprentices already working in the trade. The government covers the student's tuition fees and cost of books while they are trained at the college.

Ray Gallant, the program's teacher, said there's a lot of job opportunity and career advancement in mould making.

Gallant said students have to complete in-school hours and on-the-job hours before they can graduate.

He said the program requires each student to make their own tool before the moulds can be made.

Tanya Krueger, the only woman in the class, said she would recommend the program to others.

She said the program provided a good overview of the trade and covered all the bases, with a great deal of emphasis placed on the mathematical, practical and theoretical components.

Krueger said her favourite part was the hands-on experience she gained.

"It was an opportunity to make a

tool from start to finish and see it through to completion."

"We lucked out with Ray (the program's teacher). We were very fortunate because we had Ray who had already worked in the trade and he's an experienced mould maker," said Krueger. "If he didn't already have the information, he knew someone in the industry who did."

Krueger said the percentage of women in the mould making field is small.

"I can count on one hand the number of women in the industry in this area," said Krueger, adding women have to prove themselves in the field.

"You have a harder time finding

"You have a harder time finding apprenticeships as a female."

*Tanya Krueger,
graduating student*

apprenticeships as a female," said Krueger. "It would be harder to fit in as a woman."

Krueger, who works at Global Tooling Inc. in Kitchener, said getting enough apprentices to make the program worthwhile for the college to run the program is a problem.

"It's almost like you have to convince industry to be a part of the education process," she said.

Krueger said larger companies don't bother with the education system and train all of their

apprentices in-house.

"There's a demand for trade people, but they're not willing to train."

Krueger said young women in high school aren't encouraged to get into the trades.

"It's not really an option for us, coming from the education system. Skilled trades aren't promoted. That's why you don't see women in mould making. It's not brought to their attention. It's not that they can't be good at it."

Student Daniel Morel, 24, said he would recommend the mould making program to other students because it covered all the essentials and gives a clear idea of the work world.

"Everyone comes for different jobs and the school gives you the opportunity to work on various machines," said Morel.

Morel, an apprentice mould maker at Tri-Star Mold Inc. in Cambridge, said he found designing a mould challenging.

He said the course sharpens the skills students will learn while in the shop.

Gunther Kramer said he thought the program was valuable because students gained pointers that aren't always covered in the real world.

"You have a lot more options open to you if you have experience in different aspects like working on mills, lathe, and analyzing the best way to approach a job," Kramer said.

"If you don't take the course you'll run into loopholes," he



Mould-making graduate Gunther Kramer works on a milling machine at his job at Global Tool Inc. in Kitchener on June 21.

(Photo by Petra Lampert)

said. "It makes you more valuable as an employee."

Kramer, who also works at Global Tooling, does everything

from design work to making parts to conceptualizing designs for customers while working at his job.

Third graduation ceremony completes convocation at Doon

By Tracy Ford

The college's third convocation ceremony June 22 at 7 p.m. finalized convocation week in which about 2,600 graduates received their diplomas and recognition for the achievements in their programs.

During the ceremony at the Kenneth E. Hunter recreation centre, the college presented diplomas to graduates from the health sciences and community services department as well as the continuing education programs.

The James W. Church Achievement Award was presented to Brenda Robinson-Lowe, a nursing graduate who lives and works in Jamaica. Robinson-Lowe was an honour roll student and won several academic awards while attending Conestoga College. She was a student representative with the Waterloo Chapter of the Registered Nurses Association of Ontario.

Guest speaker Lynn Haddrall, editor of the Kitchener-Waterloo Record, said when people start to feel comfortable with their life it

is time to re-examine their goals. She used as an example what occurred in the newspaper industry after the National Post was established in October 1998. She said when the National Post was introduced, other publications were forced to re-examine their comfort in the newspaper industry.

She said the Toronto Star, Toronto Sun and the Globe and Mail became better newspapers after the introduction of the new national newspaper created competition.

"Know when to reset your goals," Haddrall advised the graduates. "Know what it is that will make you happy."

"It's time to feel a lot of discomfort, and it's time to set new goals," she said, keeping her speech short and simple.

Joanne Mills, a representative of the Alumni Association at Conestoga College, addressed the crowd of black robed graduates and said that their training at Conestoga College had opened a lot of doors for their careers.

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Alumni of distinction winners**1981 grad now on program's advisory committee**

By Tracy Ford

Conestoga's programs are good springboards for graduates and prepare them for a working environment, according to James Witmer, this year's winner of the Alumni of Distinction Award for the architectural engineering technology program.

The award is given to alumni to recognize achievements made by graduates from Conestoga College in the areas of creative arts and design, community services, business, health sciences and technology.

Conestoga has been awarding this honour to alumni since 1997.

"It's an honour to be nominated and especially to be chosen (as this year's winner)," Witmer said.

He graduated in 1981 and is now working in the planning and development department for the City of

Kitchener.

Graduating during the recession was hard, said Witmer. Half of his graduating class couldn't find work immediately following school. He said that despite the slow market he was able to secure a position with Tinto Building Sales Ltd. in Campbellville.

"Conestoga College was a good springboard for me and it prepared me for the working environment," Witmer said.

The winners of the alumni award are invited to attend convocation, where they are platform guests and are presented with their award, according to Monica Himmelmann, president of the alumni association. They are also asked to address the graduates of the school they graduated from.

Witmer said the program helped him get a job related to the field he wished to enter and he supports it

wholeheartedly. "Almost all the staff that I hire or have hired, since I have been in the position to do so, ... are graduates of that program," Witmer said.

Witmer sits on the advisory committee for the program and it was the other members of the committee who nominated him for the award.

"We know the teachers. We know the course content. We know exactly how these students are being prepared and how they are being equipped," he said.

Each winner of Conestoga's alumni award is automatically nominated for the Premier's awards for Ontario.

Winners of that award receive \$5,000 to be given to their college for student scholarships and bursaries. The nominees are invited to a banquet each February.

Witmer said he is glad to be rep-



Monica Himmelmann, president of the Alumni Association, stands in front of the Alumni of Distinction award at the recreation centre.

(Photo by Tracy Ford)

resenting Conestoga College at the Premier's awards to be held in February in conjunction with the Association of Colleges of Applied Arts and Technology of Ontario.

"If I'm successful there it's not because of anything I've done. I want to represent the school where I gained the head start in my career," he said.

Business school winner United Way's director of development

By Tracy Ford

Growing up, Anne Mackay, a graduate of Conestoga's business administration program, was encouraged by her parents to contribute more to the community, and it was their upbringing that led her toward non-profit organizations.

"I tell people I have the best job in town," said MacKay, who graduated in 1987 and now is director of development for the United Way and was presented with the Alumni of Distinction Award for the school of business at Conestoga.

The director of development oversees money that comes in from

fund raising.

The Alumni of Distinction Award is given to one graduate of each school who has done outstanding work since their graduation.

She said she works with a team of amazing people and 3,000 volunteers for the United Way.

MacKay entered Conestoga as a mature student but the decision to return to school came without hesitation because MacKay said the teachers at the college understood she was nervous.

"I realized I had to go back to school," she said, after working in retail sales. "I knew if I didn't have an understanding of the big picture

I wasn't going to go anywhere." She said she wanted to receive concrete, marketable skills.

Originally, MacKay thought she wouldn't be able to enter a business program because of her lack of background in math. The career counselling staff at the college encouraged her to try for business.

Born in Ottawa, she and her family moved to a farm east of Guelph in 1968. Her father was involved with environmental issues and was part of Ontario's conservation council. Her mother, a former nurse, worked for Wellington Hospice, which deals with terminally ill people and families.

Mackay said she began volunteering at an early age and was encouraged by both her parents.

Her family used to sell sweet corn and the money went towards donations the family would make to some organizations. The organization was discussed during family meetings.

It was her early exposure to charity that started her career doing work with numerous non-profit organizations in the region. She has done work with the Canadian Cancer Society and the Arthritis Society.

Since she began her career with non-profit organizations she has

been exposed to many different situations involving community members. "Everyone is a jewel and you can see the jewel inside them," she said.

"I only see the best of people. People who are willing to give hours and hours of time," MacKay said.

She said that what she does for a living is important and when she saw the opening available at the Canadian Cancer Society she just had to apply. "You tend to see really good things in the community," she said. She said she sees CEO's working hard so their employees can spend time with their families.

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From left, Jeffrey Nold, Jenn Sawyer, Monica Himmelmann, Ellen Menage and Carol Dawson, all part of the Alumni Association's team of volunteers, sold disposable cameras, roses and diploma frames during this year's convocation ceremonies.

(Photo by Tracy Ford)

**Keep informed.
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LASA graduate starts policing career

Former Conestoga student says program helped to prepare him

By Sherri Osment

Police Const. Edward Jermol has only been on the road for a short time, but he says the job has already become a part of him.

"Once it (policing) is in your blood it's there," said Jermol. "Even after two weeks I can't see leaving for anything."

Jermol, a graduate of Conestoga College's law and security administration program, went on the road with the Waterloo regional police on May 31.

Jermol, 27, graduated from the program in May 1996 and said the program prepared him well for a career in policing.

Jermol said he was impressed with what he learned about the LASA program when he was deciding whether or not it was for him.

"Just the way they incorporated sociology, communications and all that sort of thing. They didn't focus totally on policing, so it gave you a broader range." Jermol also said that post-secondary education is paramount for policing.

Once Jermol was hired by the Waterloo regional police force he had to spend 60 days at the Ontario

Police College in Aylmer, where a lot of information had to be absorbed in a short time.

Jermol said the most painful part of his training at the police college wasn't the studying or the running, but the exercise where recruits are sprayed in the face with pepper spray. This exercise ensures officers can still function in a painful situation, and also gives them empathy for people so they don't use that weapon without good reason, Jermol said.

"Professionalism is everything. The way you present yourself is paramount."

*Edward Jermol,
police constable*

While at the police college Jermol also shaved his head to raise money for the Cops for Cancer fundraiser.

Jermol said he chose policing as a career because of the diversity and the challenges involved with the job.

"You assume so many different

roles," Jermol said. "One minute you're a mediator in a domestic dispute, (the next) a role model for kids. In a way, you're a teacher, because you're always educating people about the laws. No two situations are the same."

Jermol said another aspect that attracted him was the chance to move into different areas of the job.

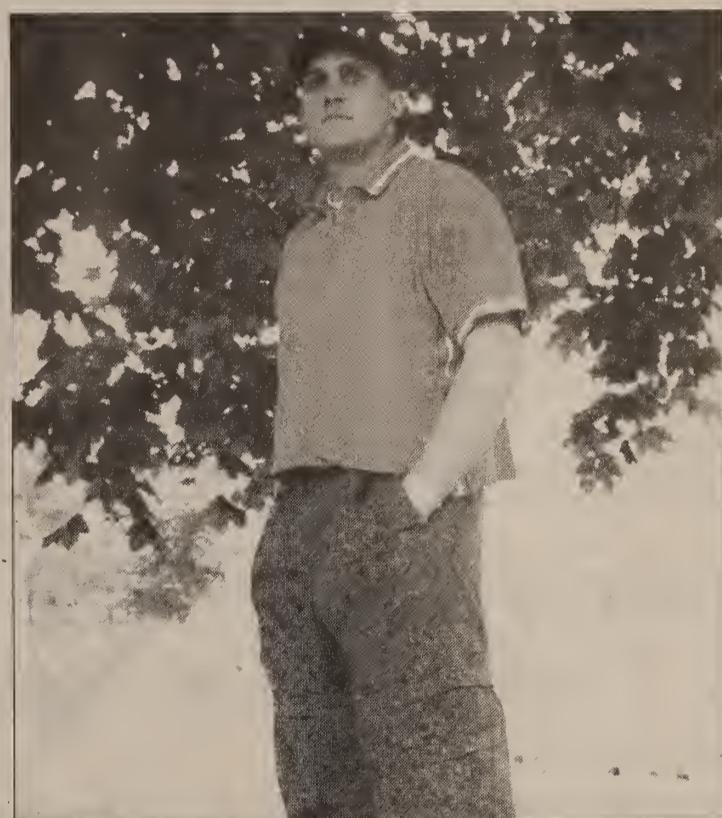
Jermol has the opportunity to move up or to move laterally into specialized areas such as the emergency response unit, or the canine unit.

One of the things that police recruiters look for in applicants is those with volunteer experience, Jermol said.

Jermol was a volunteer with Citizens on Patrol, which he said functions as a deterrent and an extra set of eyes in the community. He also volunteered with the Cambridge OPP auxiliary for six months.

As a police officer, Jermol said, it is also important to keep a neat appearance.

"Your appearance is everything," Jermol said. "Professionalism is everything. The way you present yourself is paramount."



Police Const. Edward Jermol says Conestoga College's LASA program helped him to achieve his dream of becoming a police officer.

(Photo by Sherri Osment)

Police hold training program at college

By Tracy Ford

The Waterloo Regional Police held an advanced training program at Conestoga College's Doon campus in June.

The advanced patrol training program, held on the fourth floor from June 19 to June 23, was sponsored by the Ontario Police College and the Waterloo Regional Police.

Const. Peter Stoyakovich, a member of the training branch of the Waterloo Regional Police and facilitator of the event, said the Ontario Police College doesn't run the programs but each police force can hold

its own program.

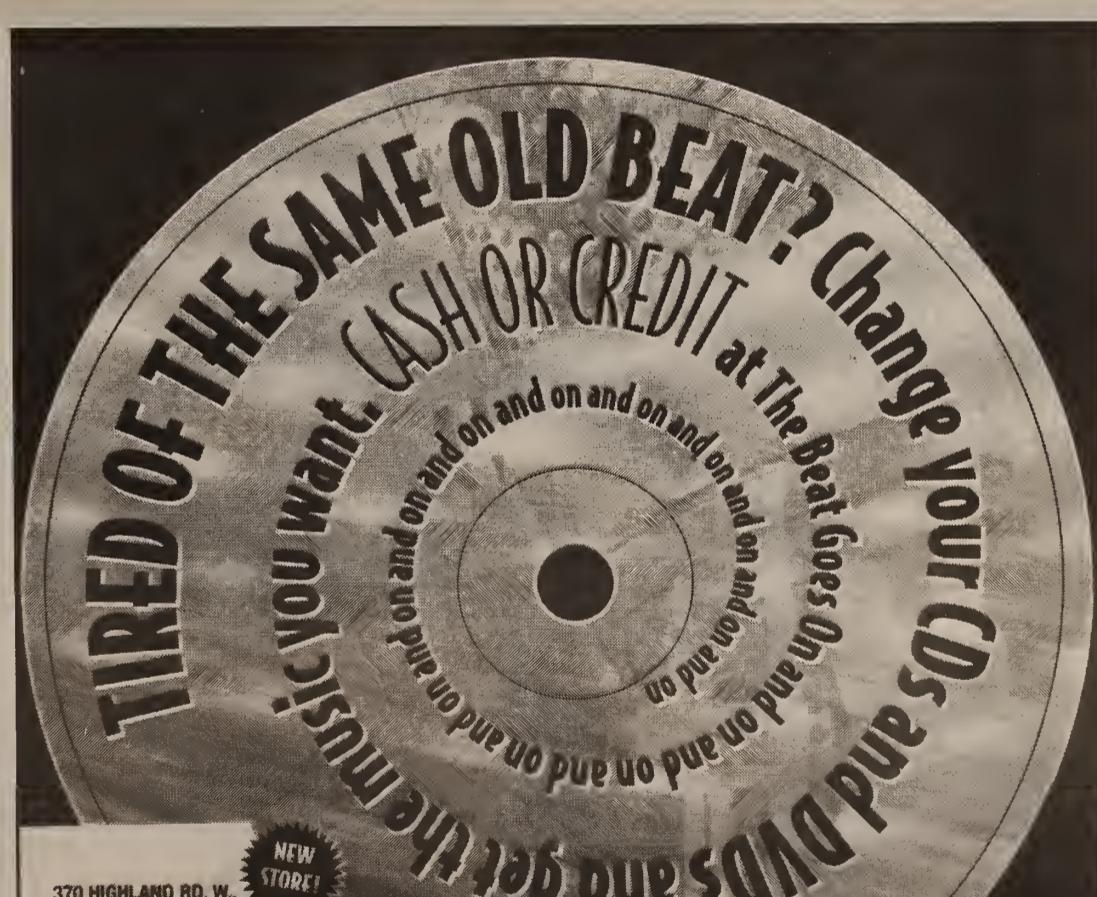
The weeklong program was designed to give senior police officers legal updates on issues such as drugs, traffic laws, mental illness and domestic violence.

"It's a refresher," said Stoyakovich, adding that laws go through a lot of changes over time.

He said the officers who took part in the course are always interested in any type of further training.

The program was held at the college because of the law and security and police foundations course and their connections with the local police force.

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Entertainment

Reggae Hits Volume 1 heats up summer

Compilation CD contains 18 chart topping hits by various artists

By Petra Lampert

Reggae Hits Volume 1 includes 18 of the biggest Dancehall anthems of all time to be compiled on one CD.

Just in time for the summer, this compilation album, on the Universal Music label, was released on May 23 and includes some of the most popular and frequently requested reggae hits from clubs and the radio. This CD is guaranteed to heat up your parties and make your summer fun a little hotter.

Songs include chart toppers like Heads High, by Mr. Vegas; Champion, by Buju Banton; and old school favourites like Red, Red Wine, by UB40 and Murder She

Wrote, by Chaka Demus and Pliers.

Although most of the songs featured have been around for a few years, they're the type you never tire of. They seem to get better each time you hear them.

This CD is strong because it consists of a good assortment of reggae dance music. With the majority of songs being fast paced and energetic, Flex, by Mad Cobra slows things down and seduces the listener with its sexy lyrics. This is a song you'll want to slowly grind to.

While most compilations tend to offer only three or four good songs, the majority of tunes on this CD are winners, making this compilation well worth buying. However, there are two tracks which leave the lis-

teners shaking their heads and wondering why these were ever chosen.

Track number seven, Somebody Just Poop, by Goofy, spits out vul-

gar flatulence noises with lyrics, and is an obscene and obtrusive interruption to an otherwise mostly flawless music mix.

When this song began I was

extremely happy that I was listening to the CD and not the tape, so I could hit the skip button and jump to the next track. I have yet to listen to that song in its entirety.

It's rude, out of place and certainly doesn't belong on this CD or any other.

The other track that interrupts the dance flow is track number 12, Pass the Dutchie, by Musical Youth. With the lyrics — "It was a cold and lonely breezy afternoon . . . How does it feel when you've got no food? You could feel it cause it was the month of June. . . How does it feel when you've got no food? So I lift my gate and went out for a walk . . . How does it feel when you've got no food? As I passed the dreadlocks camp I heard

them sing . . . How does it feel when you've got no food? Pass the dutchie . . . pass the dutchie" — this silly tune made me start to crave doughnuts.

The songs Living Dangerously, by Bounty Killer featuring Barrington Levy; Who Am I? by Beenie Man; Twice My Age, by Krystal and Shabba Ranks; Action, by Terror Fabulous with Nadine Sutherland; and You Don't Love Me (No, No, No), by Dawn Penn, will make you want to sing along to the lyrics, get off your seat and shake your booty.

Despite its two lemons, Reggae Hits Volume 1 delivers maximum hits, making this an enjoyable listening experience. And that is rare for today's compilations.



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NEW!

Latest album brings Modest Mouse to new record label: Epic Records

By Ray Bowe

Bands that can provide consistently good albums are the hardest ones to find, but Modest Mouse shouldn't be so modest.

Slower songs from The Moon and Antarctica, the band's newest album, are sometimes disguised



with a variety of effects. At any moment in any song, Modest Mouse can take a song and go in a different direction, whether with a violin injection or a full-on rock onslaught.

The band's sound is always evolving into a new direction. This new rock sound they produce is what rock music needs right now, a band to be looked up to. The band has a fullness and energy that seems spontaneous and there are only three guys in the band. One could easily confuse them for a quintet or quartet.

The song Tiny Cities Made of Ashes has a disco era feel to it, with a funky bass line attached. The following song, A Different City, speeds up, with a high-pitched guitar intro and Jeremiah Green's rapid-fire drum rampages and Eric Judy's constant pacing up and down the neck of the bass.

This album, with 15 excellent tracks clocking in at just under an hour, showcases instruments like a violin and a lap steel guitar for a well-concocted mixture.

This Seattle, Wash., trio has made the jump to the major label Epic Records for the release of The Moon and Antarctica, leaving its Up Records home for its early and formative years. Up Records is a subsidiary of Sub Pop Records.

This is the best album yes this year. The positive future of a new rock sound is Modest Mouse.

Soft melody hits The Banke

By Mike Radatus

The anticipation, if there was any, was gone when Negative Calvin didn't play their expected show June 23 at The Banke in Kitchener on King Street.

Sheldon O'Neal, manager of The Banke nightclub and promotion agent for Contactfineart Entertainment, said he wasn't sure why the band failed to show up for the performance, but was sure it was for a good reason.

"They are normally a greatly reliable band with a terrific sound," he said. "I'm really not sure what is going on."

LMNOP, a three-piece acoustic act from Kitchener, was the scheduled opening act, but ended up being the only attraction.

The band has a smooth jazz-rock sound and experimented with different effects on the guitar and vocals.

The majority of songs they played had a great flow, despite some awkward time changes and mismatched drum beats.

Don't get the wrong idea, though. The songs are a long way from being a complex maze of sounds and a lot of the talent was hidden by their lacklustre stage performance.

The crowd was in the right mood for what they got, though — a mellow, emotional and quiet band they could drink to.

Around 50 people stood around the bar, as nobody stood up or danced.

The band is looking to get a weekly venue date at the Mecca Room in the Walper Pub, on the corner of King and Queen streets.

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Who ya gonna call? **Shaft**

By Sherri Osment

When trouble comes, there is only one name you need to remember — Shaft.

Samuel L. Jackson does an amazing job in the role of the super-cool detective, John Shaft, in this movie. There is never a moment when the validity of his performance is in doubt, and it seems to be a role Jackson was born to play.

When a young black man is brutally murdered by a rich white boy who has it all, only one cop, Shaft, has the guts to go after the bad guy. Shaft also searches for a waitress who is on the run who was the only witness to the murder.

When Shaft feels that justice is not being served by the courts, he quits his job with the NYPD and takes matters into his own hands.

The plot is intelligent without being overly complex.

With his endless repertoire of perfectly delivered one-liners,

Jackson brings Shaft to life with a lot of laughs.

Jackson, as Shaft, exudes an air of confidence and shrewd intelligence that would have any criminal hurrying out of his way. With some officers in his precinct still willing to help him out, and a couple of officers willing to sell him out, Shaft still manages to keep a few steps ahead of everybody.

Of course, while fighting crime it is necessary to have some romance, and Shaft finds romance everywhere, with women falling for his suave words and extensive charm.

For those who are thinking this movie is just a Hollywood remake of an old television show, it's not.

The movie is meant to be a continuation of the original Shaft, played by Richard Roundtree, who makes a cameo appearance as the new Shaft's uncle.

Never having seen the original, it is impossible to say if this is a successful attempt, but it's a movie worth seeing, regardless.

Movie
Review
★ ★ ★ ★
(Rated out of five stars)

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Vera an intriguing story about Russian writer Vladimir Nabokov

By Tracy Ford

The book Vera — Mrs. Vladimir Nabokov has a compelling plot with interesting characters and numerous settings, but leaves the reader with an unfinished ending to its confusing beginning.

Writer Stacy Schiff tried to tell a story about one of Russia's most adored poets, Vladimir Nabokov. Instead of using his life story to fuel the plot, Schiff followed Vera, his devoted wife, who seemed to worship his work.

The book, which was published on April 11, follows their marriage from start to finish, or what is believed to be the start. The book is written in a way that confuses the beginning.

When exactly did the pair meet? Was she as adoring as many onlookers said she was? Or was her devotion just a romanticized view held by the culture? Nothing can be answered because everything is speculation.

The beginning is a scattered mess of possibilities with no real cold, hard facts to back anything up.

The subjects, Vladimir and Vera, seemed uncooperative to Schiff as she gathered facts for the book. Nothing could be pinned down as actual fact and as the story continues nothing seems to become any more definite.

It appears that the beginning of Vera and Vladimir's marriage

remains as great a mystery as the fate of the Russian Romanov dynasty.

One unknown publisher has been quoted as saying, "She was just a

throughout the greater part of the last century, Schiff follows the couple with the same amount of uncertainty that establishes the hesitant beginning.

The exquisite setting of decadence and elegance of Eastern Europe at the beginning of the 20th century almost makes the book worth the suggested retail price of \$22.95, but not quite. The pages of writing are filled with footnotes, sidenotes and undetermined turns of events which no source can confirm or deny.

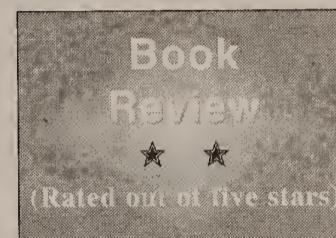
In the fall of 1946, the Nabokovs found their way to the United States, where Vladimir was to be a Russian literature professor at a girls college in Wellesley, Mass.

The girls were said to fall in love with him, a foreign professor. One former student said, "He definitely flirted but always with the dumbbells."

He not only flirted but he had numerous affairs as well. Many of his students were unaware of his marriage and so responsibility for his affairs can be attributed to his unfaithfulness.

Was Vladimir as devoted to the marriage as Vera? His years in Wellesley seem to suggest otherwise.

An interesting story with equally interesting lives demands proper execution. Vera should be read for its examination of an era, not for its biographical content.



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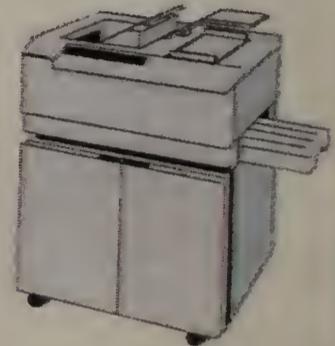
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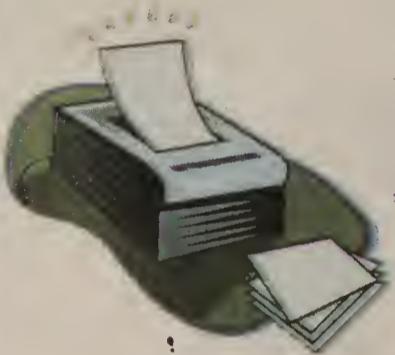
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Prices vary for local & long distance

Colour Photocopier
8.5" X 11" is \$1.10/ copy



Laminating
8.5" X 11" is \$1.50/page



Colour Printing
8.5" X 11" is 30¢ per page

Scanning
55¢ / scan

**All prices include GST
prices subject to change without notice**